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Front Pages

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TOTEM

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FROM THE EDITOR

The volume of TOTEM that you now hold in your hands is the product of the hard work of numerous members of the faculty and student body in the Department of Anthropology at the University of Western Ontario. As in the past, the mission of TOTEM this year has been to publish works of exceptional research, creativity and originality in Anthropology by students and professionals. The wide variety of papers included here is a testament to the wide-ranging nature of anthropological thought and research at the University of Western Ontario.

Taking the reigns of TOTEM this year provided me with the opportunity to make a few changes to the review process as well as to the production and design of the cover and contents of this new issue. This issue represents the first volume of TOTEM to be entirely peer-reviewed. By involving at least three Editors and/or Assistant Editors in the review process, submitting authors now benefit from the experience of participating in the peer-review process, while more students are provided with an opportunity to participate in the construction of TOTEM. The inclusion of undergraduate Assistant Editors also serves to ensure the continuity of TOTEM in upcoming years. For those of you who have read TOTEM before, you will notice that we now feature a lovely glossy colour cover and a revitalized production design throughout the journal.

The future of TOTEM looks bright if the articles in this volume are any indication. I would like to formally thank all of the students who submitted their work to TOTEM this year and also those who assisted as editors and assistants. Also, "Congratulations!" to each of the authors who are featured here – I hope that you will enjoy seeing yourself in print. Finally, thanks to you, the reader, for picking up an issue of TOTEM and supporting student achievement in Anthropology at the University of Western Ontario.



Alexis E. Dolphin

University of Western Ontario

London, Ontario

July 19th, 2000

INTRODUCTION

Tracey Galloway introduces us to the first entry of TOTEM, Volume 8. She takes a multifactorial approach to understanding the mechanisms at work within the epidemiologic transition. Using the emergence of Methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (M.R.S.A.) as an example, Tracey goes on to discuss how intrinsic and extrinsic factors interact in the later stages of this transition. Tracey submitted this paper as an undergraduate at U.W.O. and is now in her first year of graduate studies at McMaster University.

An undergraduate student, **Lindsey Huculiak**, helps us to unravel the complicated questions: How can anthropology carve out its own sense of morality? And who is anthropology responsible to? She provides a thoughtful and balanced perspective on the role of advocacy in anthropology. Her work serves as a primer for all students of the discipline.

Jodi Blumenfeld, now entering her second year of the Masters program at the University of Western Ontario, discusses how biological (physical) anthropologists go about making racial identifications using skeletal remains. While providing very useful tips for identifying individuals of varied biological affinities, Jodi supplements the data with a consideration of the limitations and problems inherent in making categorizations based upon the 'race' concept.

Mark Dolson brings us into the world of those suffering from leprosy. He examines how the person suffering from this disease is physically deformed, yet has also traditionally been the bearer of social stigma. Entering his final year of undergraduate study at the University of Western Ontario, Mark is a wonderful writer who artfully

combines the realms of biological, social and medical anthropology with an eye to history.

Now beginning his first year as a Masters student in Anthropology at U.W.O., **Jim Sherratt** clearly demonstrates the principles behind carbon isotope analysis and how it has been used to inform us on the prehistory of Ontario Native peoples. Jim's work is a critical review of the literature that delves into questions of sample size and context, calling for the careful filling of the gaps in analysis that he uncovers.

Kevin Gibbs is currently embarking upon his second year in the Masters program here at U.W.O. Not only does Kevin examine the role of deer in ancient Maya culture, he uses this case as a departure point for the examination of how zooarchaeology is conceived and used to interpret the lives of past populations. This paper skillfully integrates a number of theories using multiple lines of evidence to put flesh back on to old bones.

Christianne Stephens tackles the question of whether craniometric analysis is a useful tool in the evaluation of racial identity in forensic investigation. She presents the results of her own investigation into a number of issues pertaining to the race concept, and the use of FORDISC 2.0 in the identification of an individual's 'race' from skeletal remains. Currently an undergraduate in anthropology at the University of Western Ontario, she provides an example of an excellent undergraduate research paper in skeletal biology and human variation.